

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claims 1-28 without prejudice or admission and add new claims 29-34 as shown in the following listing of claims, which replaces all previous versions and listings of claims.

1. - 28. (canceled).

29. (new) A credit card settlement system comprising:

electronic coupon registration means for registering electronic coupons associated with identification information on a credit card;

reception means for receiving from a credit card terminal, credit card settlement information including the identification information on the credit card;

electronic coupon search means for searching the electronic coupons registered by the electronic coupon registration means for electronic coupons that are useable in connection with the identification information on the credit card;

electronic coupon availability determination means for determining whether any of the electronic coupons searched by the electronic coupon search means is or is not available for credit card settlement by means of the credit card settlement information;

electronic coupon determination means for determining whether an electronic coupon determined to be available for credit card settlement by the electronic coupon availability determination means is or is not for a discount;

discount means for giving a discount on a price for the credit card settlement when the electronic coupon is determined to be for a discount by the electronic coupon determination means; and

license request transmission means for transmitting to a credit card settlement center a license request for the credit card settlement reflecting the price discounted by the discount means.

30. (new) A credit card settlement system according to claim 29; wherein the electronic coupon registration means comprises at least one of a mobile telephone, a computer connected to a network, and a digital broadcast reception terminal.

31. (new) A credit card settlement system according to claim 29; further comprising an electronic coupon server having a database for storing the electronic coupons, receiving a request for acquisition of an electronic coupon from the electronic coupon registration means, and storing the identification information on the credit card in correlation with the electronic coupon.

32. (new) An electronic coupon issuing system according to claim 31; wherein the electronic coupon server accumulates the search results of searches performed by the electronic coupon search means and accumulates electronic coupon usage information.

33. (new) A credit card settlement system comprising:

a credit card terminal for reading identification information on a credit card used in a credit card settlement;

an electronic coupon server for storing information on electronic coupons associated with the identification information on the credit card; and

a credit card settlement center for transmitting to and receiving from a credit card company's server information on the credit card settlement, receiving from the credit card terminal credit card settlement information including the identification information on the credit card, and requesting the electronic coupon server to search for the electronic coupon associated with the identification information on the credit card;

wherein the credit card settlement center comprises credit card settlement information reception means for receiving from the credit card terminal the credit card settlement information including the identification

information on the credit card and registration information registered in advance in the credit card terminal, electronic coupon search condition transmission means for transmitting to the electronic coupon server the received identification information on the credit card and the registration information, electronic coupon search result reception means for receiving from the electronic coupon server the result information on the search for whether there is or is not an electronic coupon available for the credit card settlement and for a discount, and electronic coupon information transmission means for transmitting to the credit card terminal the information of the electronic coupon when the received result information on the search shows there is an electronic coupon available for the credit card settlement and for a discount;

wherein the electronic coupon server comprises electronic coupon registration means for registering the electronic coupons associated with the identification information on the credit card, electronic coupon search condition reception means for receiving from the credit card settlement center the identification information on the credit card and the registration information, electronic coupon search means for searching for whether there is or is not a electronic coupon available for the credit card settlement in the electronic coupons registered by the electronic coupon

registration means, electronic coupon availability determination means for determining whether the electronic coupon is or is not for a discount, when there is an electronic coupon available for the credit card settlement as a result of the search by the electronic coupon search means, and electronic coupon search result transmission means for transmitting to the credit card settlement center the information on the electronic coupon, when the available electronic coupon is for a discount as a result of the determination by the electronic coupon availability determination means; and

wherein the credit card terminal comprises reading means for reading the identification information on the credit card, credit card settlement information transmission means for transmitting to the credit card settlement center the credit card settlement information including the read identification information and the registration information, electronic coupon information reception means for receiving from the credit card settlement center the information on the electronic coupon available for the credit card settlement and for a discount, credit card settlement information recreation means for recreating the credit card settlement information reflecting the price discounted based on the information on the received electronic coupon, and discounted credit card

settlement information transmission means for transmitting to the credit card settlement center the recreated credit card settlement information to request a license for the credit card settlement.

34. (new) A credit card settlement system according to claim 29; wherein the electronic coupon registration means comprises at least one of a mobile telephone, a computer connected to a network, and a digital broadcast reception terminal.